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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, you inhabit ages and all worlds. Dwell among our Senators today. Tune their hearts to Your purposes and open their lips to speak Your wisdom. Lord, infuse them with Your spirit so that their work will make a positive impact on our Nation and world. Banish their anxieties, as You provide them with a faith strong enough to face whatever challenges they must confront. Lord, give them openness of mind in order that they might perceive Your will more clearly; openness of heart, that they might love You more profoundly; and openness of hand, that they might serve You more devotedly.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business for Senators to speak up to 10 minutes each. The majority will control the first 30 minutes; Republicans will control the next 30 minutes. We will be in recess again today from 12:30 until 3:30 to allow for a Democratic caucus.

Yesterday, the House sent us a 2-week continuing resolution, and we need to act on that funding bill before the current continuing resolution expires on tomorrow. I will continue to work with the Republican leader on a time for its consideration.

We have other matters. I am in touch with my caucus, the Republican leader, and the White House to try to move toward completing business before Christmas.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a half hour of morning business, with Members permitted to

speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the next 30 minutes.

Mr. REID. It is my understanding that the order before the Senate is that each side will have a full 30 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

START TREATY

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I believe a number of colleagues are lined up to speak. They are not here, so I will take a moment and take it off the Democratic side and just speak for a very few minutes.

I know a number of my colleagues are wanting to talk a little bit about the START treaty. I look forward to their doing so. I did want to bring colleagues up to speed on sort of where we are and hopefully give an accurate, up-to-the-moment assessment of sort of what the progress is.

I wish to express my gratitude to a group of Senators on the other side of the aisle—Senator KYL, Senator MCCAIN, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, Senator ISAKSON, and Senator CORKER, particularly—all of whom have been working in good faith and consistently.

Senator KYL and I are talking almost every single day. It has been a constructive process. Obviously, there are points of disagreement here and there on substance. We are trying to work through those. I wish to say that Senator KYL has worked with us calmly and quietly and in good faith in an effort to try to resolve some legitimate questions from Members on his side of the aisle. He has been consistent and persistent in hammering home those differences and the needs that must be met as we go through the process. Vice President BIDEN has been particularly engaged and particularly helpful in helping us to move the process forward, so the administration has a voice that

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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